

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 22, 28, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 58, 62, 66, 67, and 70 without prejudice.

Claims 1-6, 10, 13-21, 23-27, and 29-36 are amended.

Claims 1-6, 10, 13-21, 23-27, 29-36, 45-57, 59-61, 63-65, 68, 69, and 71-78 are pending.

Please amend claims 1-6, 10, 13-21, 23-27, and 29-36 as follows:

1. (Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising [the following steps]:

creating a license pack at a license generator, the license pack containing a set of one or more individual software licenses;

signing the license pack with a digital signature of the license generator;

issuing the license pack to a license server;

verifying, at the license server, the license generator's digital signature on the license pack; and

distributing the software licenses contained in the license pack from the license server to corresponding clients.

2. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising [the step of] creating a license pack containing a predefined number of software licenses.

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3. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1,
further comprising [the following steps]:

creating a license pack ID at the license generator; and
evaluating the license pack ID at the license server.

4. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1,
further comprising [the following steps]:

encrypting the license pack at the license generator; and
decrypting the license pack at the license server.

5. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1,
further comprising [the step of] creating a license pack that is tailored to a
particular operating platform of the clients.

6. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1,
further comprising [the step of] determining an authenticity of an individual client
prior to distributing the software license to that individual client.

10. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1,
wherein the license pack has a license pack ID, and further comprising [the step
of] granting additional licenses for the license pack having the same license pack
ID.

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13. (Amended) A computer-implemented method for distributing software licenses to clients so that the clients may legally execute underlying software to which the software licenses pertain, the computer-implemented method comprising [the step of] electronically issuing the software licenses as digital certificates that can be distributed in one-to-one correlation with individual clients and traced to an issuing authority.

14. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer readable instructions for performing the [step] method as recited in claim 13.

15. (Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising [the following steps]:

receiving a request for a software license from a particular license server;
creating a license pack containing a set of one or more individual software licenses;

assigning a license pack ID to the license pack;

associating the license pack ID with the particular license server;

digitally signing the license pack; and

issuing the signed license pack to the particular license server.

16. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 15, further comprising [the step of] creating a license pack containing a predefined number of software licenses.

17. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 15,
further comprising [the step of] creating a license pack that includes a platform
type indicating a type of operating platform for which the software licenses can be
used.

18. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 15,
further comprising [the step of] creating a license pack that includes a predefined
number of software licenses, a platform type indicating a type of operating
platform for which the software licenses can be used, an expiration date indicating
a date on which the software licenses will expire, and a product ID that identifies a
product with which the software licenses can be used.

19. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 15,
further comprising [the step of] encrypting the license pack.

20. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer readable
instructions for performing the [steps] method as recited in claim 15.

21. (Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising [the
following steps]:

receiving a request for a software license from a particular client;

determining an authenticity of the particular client;

selecting a software license from a pack of software licenses that is
appropriate for the particular client, the software license having an associated
license ID;

2 associating the license ID with the particular client; and
3 granting the software license to the particular client.

4 23. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 21,
5 further comprising [the step of] granting the software license as containing the
6 license ID, a platform type indicating a type the platform, an issue date indicates a
7 date on which the license is issued to the client, an expiration date that indicates a
8 date on which the software license will expire, a product ID that identifies a
9 product with which the software licenses can be used, a client ID that identifies the
10 particular client, and a version of the software license.

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12 24. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 21,
13 wherein [the step of] determining the authenticity comprises [the following steps]:
14 receiving a client software ID from the particular client; and
15 evaluating the client software ID to determine whether the client is
16 authentic.

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18 25. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 21,
19 wherein [the step of] determining the authenticity comprises [the following steps]:
20 maintaining a set of client images;
21 receiving a client software ID from the particular client; and
22 comparing the client software ID to the client images to evaluate whether
23 the client is authentic.

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26. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 21,
further comprising [the following steps]:

determining a platform of the particular client; and
selecting the software license as is appropriate for the platform of the
particular client.

27. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 21,
further comprising [the step of] encrypting the software license using a public key
of the particular client.

29. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer readable
instructions for performing the [steps] method as recited in claim 21.

30. (Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising [the
following steps]:

computing, at a computer, a value as a one-way function of a client
executable image that uniquely identifies a client; and

digitally signing the value, at the computer, using a private signing key of a
server that serves the client to create a client image digital signature that is unique
to the client.

31. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 30,
wherein [the] computing the value [step] comprises [the step of] hashing the
executable image to produce a hash value.

1 32. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 30,
2 further comprising [the step of] storing the client image digital signature at the
3 client.

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5 33. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 30,
6 further comprising [the following steps]:

7 storing the client executable image at the server;

8 storing the client image digital signature at the client;

9 submitting the client image digital signature from the client to the server
10 when requesting a software license; and

11 evaluating an authenticity of the client based on the client image digital
12 signature prior to granting a software license to the client

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14 34. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 33,
15 wherein [the] evaluating the authenticity [step] comprises [the following steps]:

16 unsigned the client image digital signature using a public key of the server
17 to recover the client executable image; and

18 comparing the recovered client executable image to the client executable
19 image stored at the server.

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21 35. (Amended) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 34,
22 further comprising [the step of] rejecting the request for a software license in an
23 event that the recovered client executable image does not match the client
24 executable image stored at the server.
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